

Montana Water Center

Wyatt F. Cross
Director, Montana Water Center
Department of Ecology, MSU



Today's talk. . .

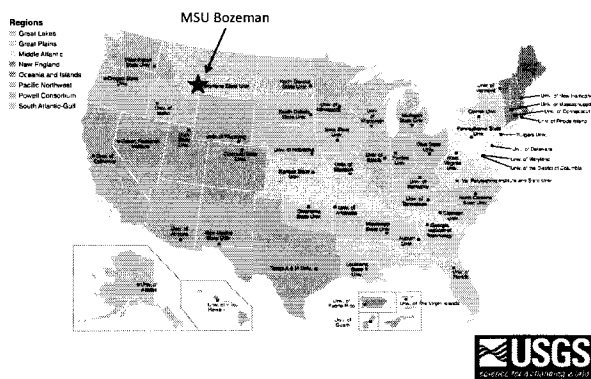
- A bit of history
- What is the MT Water Center?
- What do we do?
- Next steps in 2016

The 'Water Resources Research Act' (1964)



- An adequate supply of clean water is essential for economic stability and growth, and human well-being
- Produce a national network of water centers to help solve water resource issues in the states

Water Resource Research Institutes



Montanans were instrumental in the founding of the water institutes



Mike Mansfield (US senator from Montana) was the principle sponsor of the 1964 authorizing legislation



Rolland Renne (former president of MSU) was the first federal administrator of the WRRRI program as director of the Office of Interior Water Resources Research

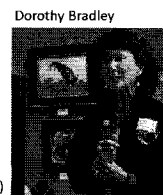
The MT Water Center has had 10 directors since 1964



(2012-2014)



(2000-2012)



(1992-2000)

MT Water Center



Wyatt Cross



Director 0.3 FTE

Nikki Sandve



Education Director 1.0 FTE

Stephanie McGinnis



Assistant Director 0.5 FTE

Nancy Hystad



Administrative Associate 0.7 FTE

John Lafave



Associate Director

Andrew Wilcox



Associate Director

Annual Budget = \$93,000 from USGS (base grant)
\$50,000 from Montana State University
\$78,000 from DNRC for Watercourse

Core Mission

Research

Support water-related research institutions of higher education

Education

• Provide water education and training for students, teachers and citizens

Outreach

Facilitate the nexus between the University System and agencies, groups interested in water

Research

Annual Funding Opportunities

- **Montana Water Center Faculty Seed Grants**
 - Typically ~\$45K to support faculty research projects
- **Montana Water Center Graduate Student Fellowships**
 - ~\$5K to support graduate students

Dr. Jamie McEvoy
Earth Sciences, Montana State University

Quantifying 'natural infrastructure' (i.e., floodplains, wetlands) potential on the Musselshell River

What are the social and political barriers/opportunities to enhancing natural storage?

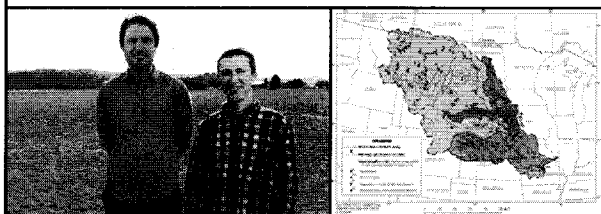
Partners: DNRC, DEQ



Dr. Ben Poulter
Ecology, Montana State University

How will future land use and water management influence water supply in the Upper Missouri River Basin?

Partners: USGS, Wildlife Conservation Society



Dr. Ellen Lauchnor
Civil Engineering, Montana State University

Improving wastewater treatment facilities – understanding why household products reduce the ability of microbes to remove nitrogen pollution



Water expertise is a *huge* strength of the Montana University System

- Hydrology
- Ecology
- Climate modeling
- Fisheries
- Fluvial Geomorphology
- Economic Valuation
- Human health
- Microbiology/Microbial Ecology
- Agriculture/Irrigation
- Human-Environment Geography
- Policy narratives
- Water Law



2015 Graduate Student Grantees



MIRANDA MARGETTS (MSU): Enhancing tribal environmental health literacy

MICHAEL JAHNKE (U of M): Effects of wildfire on water resources

SARAH BENJARAM (MSU): Sedimentation in MT rivers

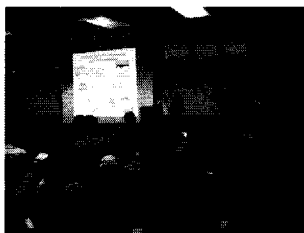
TAYLOR WILCOX (U of M): Conserving native trout

Research

Montana AWRA Meeting




American Water Resources Association



Education and Outreach


K-12
University
Teachers
Practitioners





Montana Watercourse
Montana's Source for Water Education

- **Provided education to over 1400 adults and youth during 2014 and 2015**
- **In-person workshops, online training, graduate classes, and field teaching opportunities**





Graduate Classes for Educators

- Lake Ecology
- Developing Effective Watershed Projects
- Watershed Hydrology


Professional Development for Teachers

- Project WET – water curriculum aligned to state standards
- Developing local water projects for student participation

Professionals and Community Members

- Water Rights Workshops for Realtors
- Stream-Floodplain Restoration Workshops
- Dam Safety Workshops
- 2014 Statewide Stormwater Conference
- Montana Water Supply Initiative Outreach
- Online Education Resources for Watershed Professionals



What's new for 2016?



